

**THE PORTRAYAL OF IDENTITY TRANSITION IN JEAN
KWOK'S *GIRL IN TRANSLATION* (2010) NOVEL**

SKRIPSI

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
JAKARTA**

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**THE PORTRAYAL OF IDENTITY TRANSITION IN JEAN
KWOK'S *GIRL IN TRANSLATION* (2010) NOVEL**

SKRIPSI

Presented to Faculty of Letters and Languages Universitas Kristen Indonesia in
partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra*

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JAKARTA

2023



UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
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Hereby declare that the *skripsi* entitled “The Portrayal of Identity Transition in Jean Kwok’s *Girl in Translation* (2010) Novel” is:

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ABSTRAK

Transisi identitas merupakan salah satu tantangan utama yang dihadapi imigran ketika beradaptasi dengan lingkungan budaya baru. Novel *Girl in Translation* (2010) karya Jean Kwok menggambarkan proses tersebut melalui tokoh Kimberly Chang, seorang imigran muda asal Tiongkok yang berjuang menyesuaikan diri dengan kehidupan di Amerika Serikat tanpa kehilangan identitas budayanya. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis konflik interkultural dan konflik identitas yang dialami Kimberly Chang, mengkaji proses transisi identitasnya, serta mengidentifikasi pesan yang disampaikan melalui pengalamannya.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan objektif. Data primer berupa novel *Girl in Translation* (2010), sedangkan data sekunder diperoleh dari buku dan artikel ilmiah. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan *Transition Model* William Bridges sebagai teori utama, didukung konsep identitas budaya Stuart Hall, teori akulturasi John Berry, *Intercultural Conflict Theory* Stella Ting-Toomey, dan *Cultural Dimensions Theory* Geert Hofstede.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Kimberly mengalami konflik akibat hambatan bahasa, perbedaan nilai budaya, dan adaptasi sosial yang membentuk transisi identitasnya melalui tiga tahap, yaitu *Ending, Losing, and Letting Go, The Neutral Zone*, dan *The New Beginning*. Novel ini juga menyampaikan tiga pesan utama: tekad membutuhkan pengorbanan, identitas dapat dibangun kembali tanpa meninggalkan warisan budaya, dan pendidikan menjadi sarana mobilitas sosial serta pengembangan diri. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa transisi identitas merupakan proses bertahap yang melibatkan negosiasi budaya dan pertumbuhan psikologis melalui integrasi budaya, bukan penggantian budaya.

Kata kunci: transisi identitas, konflik interkultural, identitas budaya, akulturasi, *Girl in Translation*.

ABSTRACT

Identity transition is a major challenge for immigrants adapting to a new cultural environment. Jean Kwok's *Girl in Translation* (2010) portrays this process through Kimberly Chang, a young Chinese immigrant who struggles to adapt to life in the United States while preserving her cultural identity. This study aims to analyse Kimberly's intercultural and identity conflicts, examine her identity transition, and identify the messages conveyed through her experiences in the novel.

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method using an objective approach. The primary data source was *Girl in Translation* (2010), supported by books and scholarly articles. The analysis applied William Bridges' Transition Model as the primary framework, supported by Stuart Hall's concept of cultural identity, John Berry's acculturation theory, Stella Ting-Toomey's Intercultural Conflict Theory, and Geert Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions Theory.

The findings show that Kimberly experiences conflicts related to language barriers, cultural values, and social adaptation, which shape her identity transition through the three stages of Bridges' model: Ending, Losing, and Letting Go; The Neutral Zone; and The New Beginning. The novel also conveys three major messages: determination requires personal sacrifice, identity can be reconstructed without abandoning cultural heritage, and education provides opportunities for social mobility and personal growth.

In conclusion, *Girl in Translation* portrays identity transition as a gradual process of cultural negotiation and psychological growth, demonstrating that successful adaptation is achieved through cultural integration rather than cultural replacement.

Keywords: identity transition, intercultural conflict, cultural identity, acculturation, *Girl in Translation*.